

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, September 25th, 1864.

Read—LUKE VIII. 1-18; The Parable of the Sower. SAMUEL XX. 1-23; Jonathan's covenant with David.

Recite—PHILIPPIANS II. 5-8.

Sunday, October 2nd, 1864.

Read—LUKE VIII. 19-50; The Storm rebuked. SAMUEL XX. 24-42; Jonathan's efforts in behalf of David.

Recite—ECCLESIASTICAL XII. 13, 14.

Tramps in New York.

A PEEK AT THE NEWS-BOYS IN THEIR LODGING-HOUSE.

The practical benefits to be derived from this establishment were at first considered very questionable by those who knew the lives of the news-boys. Now, however, the friends who have watched its progress are satisfied that this rude yet moral rendezvous has been the means of gathering into one fold many an untamed spirit, whose case would have been hard to reach through ordinary, or indeed any other agencies.

Pains is taken gradually to refine their tastes by entertaining lectures, readings, dramatic or otherwise, and innocent games, all approximation to gambling being utterly avoided.

In furtherance of this idea, and to attract them from rude sports, a library has been established, to which Mrs. J. J. Astor has contributed so largely that the boys good-naturedly dub it "Astor Library, No. 2," travestying the noble institution in Lafayette-place. This lady has also sent it some pretty paintings, neatly mounted in gilt.

A visitor to an evening meeting of the news-boys will be often touched by the evidences of old sorrow in the expression of the young faces turned towards the lecturer; also by the marks of want shown in the sunken, ill-clothed frames of the little wanderers who come straggling in at late hours, to deposit their three cents nightly at the treasurer's desk.

Some of these who have not picked up a job all day and have had nothing to eat, are gratuitously received and provided for by the bounty of the others. We have seen them mending the clothes of the newly arrived, carefully tacking together the floating rags, in order that some brow-beaten companion might start forth with better countenance on the morrow.

After the week-day evening exercises, the superintendent allows them perfect freedom, and one would suppose the house would literally come down, if it were not pretty substantially put together. Those who are too weary to play—and there are always many such—find perches in window-seats, etc., about the room, and half sleeping, half waking, observe the course of events. Often, however, unable to resist temptation, they leap down and "pitch in" with the rest of them. Especially is this the case when a certain game, admitting of no euphemism in its suggestive title, has possession of the floor. This is no other than "The Die of Maggots," and its nature is that of a vortex, drawing in all appreciative spirits with an irresistible offer of fun. The rule is for all to "pile in," the best fellow keeping on top without injuring his competitors. Of course the party who supposes himself uppermost has but brief time for exultation, soon finding himself at the bottom of the heap, and being made thoroughly to feel his position. The struggle is generally of short duration, for as the fun grows fast and furious, the smaller boys shouting, "Cut! I get off us me, you fellers," the superintendent taps a bell, and all is quiescent instant.

On Sabbath evening these boys are seen in their best, and to many visitors their most interesting sight. No meeting is more orderly, no audience more attentive, unless here and there childhood asserts its supremacy over the unnatural vigilance of the past week, and a small head is seen to droop on the red-shirted bosom. Even in such cases we have observed an effort to cast off old Morpheus, and the eye is snapped determinedly, the head vigorously scratched, and the whole frame erected to its utmost stretch, only to lumber down again under the conqueror.

Through the kindness of the benevolent, or by their own thrift, they are generally able upon this sacred day to sport a clean shirt; and this, together with the free meal always provided for those who observe the day, no doubt conduces to the increased audience always perceptible at Sunday evening meetings. The head is always bowed at the voice of prayer, and the visitor who listens to their closing hymn must go away with it still ringing in his heart, as its notes float and circle in increasing waves that touch at last the eternal throne. Who that hears can fail to join in that hymn, feeling it a high privilege so to do, for then the thought presents itself of that blessed promise: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

LEARN of Christ who was sensible of injuries, yet patient under them.

TAKE heed of being infected with the breath of a profane heart.

"Tramps in New York by Rebecca," pp. 104, American Tract Society N. York.

Sing and go on.

"Never too old to learn," is a capital proverb. The oldest Sabbath scholar I ever saw was not far from a hundred years old. She was sixty before she knew her letters. I once heard a gray-headed man say, "I hope I may never be too old to learn." Do you know of anybody who sometimes thinks, "I am old enough to give up repeating lessons to my teacher?" "Never too old to learn," Reuben Tinker must have thought, when he resolved to study for the ministry. He was twenty years of age. He knew that it would require many years of hard study. And he was poor; work and study must go together.

After a while he resolved to go to a higher school. To resolve and to do were about the same thing with him. The distance was fifty miles. He might have taken a seat in a good stage-coach, and rode like a gentleman, but he chose to lay out what little money he had in knowledge. So he set out to walk like a gentleman, carrying a little bundle of clothes. Never be ashamed to take the wisest way of doing things.

The first day he walked about thirty miles. In the morning he found fire brown on the road, and still more of it coming down thick and fast. By night it was quite a foot and a half deep. Did not this cool his ardor and damp his zeal? I think not. Whoever saw him that day trudging along with his bundle, looking neither to the right nor to the left, and covered as white with snow flakes as the road over which he was passing, saw a very damp young man, and possibly a cold one; but he saw no proof whatever of the lack of those qualities which mark great men from little ones.

Onward he struggled; and do you think that he grew sorry that he had started out to learn something? Not at all. If tempted to give up, or go back, he said to himself, "What! you, Reuben Tinker, expect to be a minister, and perhaps a missionary to the heathen, and be disheartened at this!" And then he tells us, "So I sang to keep my courage up, and went on." And thus he went on through all his difficult studies; and no doubt, when hard at work to support himself, he often sang a hymn "to keep his courage up."

But who was this Reuben Tinker? A brave young man—a good example for us all, in his energy, and perseverance, and noble purposes—a devout Christian in his heart and life. He was one of the earlier missionaries to the Sandwich Islands. It may do some readers, who think they have not room enough in the world, good to read what he wrote on his journey. "Our state rooms, as they are called, are not marvellously stately; but one can stand straight, or lie his whole length in them, if he be not too long, and can turn round if he be not too thick. You must have learned before this, that one essential art of getting on comfortably in life is not to want what you cannot have; another, to stoop when, if you do not stoop, your head will hit the rafters. From all which, please to conclude that the ship is a good one, and that we are content, which is the honest truth."

Mr. Tinker labored several years among the heathen, and spent the rest of his life preaching in his own country. He was a great sufferer during his closing years, but he bore up under his disease with such a resolution as he had shown when wading through the snow to school. "Never despair," seemed to be his motto, along with the words, "Hope thou in God."

One day, towards the close of his life, a friend visited him. When speaking of death he said, "There will be the old study where I have spent so many happy hours; there will stand the book-case, and there will be the book's. My table will occupy its accustomed place, and the old inkstand will be there, and the pen; windows, doors, walls, all remain as they are. Wife will come in, and sit there and sew, and the children will come, and sometimes, a neighbor. Where will Reuben Tinker be then? Where shall I be?"

For a moment he was quite overcome with emotion. The tears started and his lip quivered. Then recovering, he said joyfully, as he pointed upward, "There! There! There! I think I shall be in a better place, rejoicing and reigning with the Lord." Never despair.

Habits of the old Ministers.

There are some good people who think the ministry of the present day degenerate, and look back with affection and regret on former times, when ministers were more earnest and single minded in their work. The following extract, from Dr. Beecher's Autobiography, will show that in some respects, at least, there has been no loss of character. He attended a ministers' meeting, where liquors of all kinds were freely furnished:

When they had all done drinking, and had taken pipes and tobacco, in less than fifteen minutes there was such a smoke, you could not see. And the noise I cannot describe; it was the maximum of hilarity. They told their stories, and were at the height of jocular talk. They were not old-fashioned Puritans. They had been run down. Great deal of spirituality on Sabbath, and not much when they got where there was something good to drink. I think I recollect some animadversions were made at that time by the people, on the amount of liquor drank, for the tide was swelling in the drinking habits of society.

I was a member of the General Association which met at Sharon, June, 1812, when a committee reported. They said they had attended to the subject or omitted to their care; that intemperance had been for some time increasing in a most alarming manner; but that, after the

most faithful and prayerful inquiry, they were obliged to confess they did not perceive that any thing could be done.

The blood started through my heart when I heard this, and I rose instantly and moved that a committee of three be appointed immediately, to report at this meeting the ways and means of arresting the tide of intemperance.

The committee was named and appointed. I was chairman, and on the following day brought in a report, the most important paper that I ever wrote.—W. & R.

A few words about Tobacco.

The following very sensible and temperate, view of Tobacco-using, with, we hope, commend itself to sensible young men who have unfortunately contracted the habit; but who are not yet unable to abandon the dangerous weed!

I must be permitted to specialize still another danger from the general head of dissipation—one that you are not accustomed to hear spoken of in the pulpit. I mean the danger of using tobacco. Do not think that I purpose to deliver an indiscriminate tirade of abuse against this practice. I wish to speak moderately, and to give the result of my reflections founded upon much observation.

I do not deny that there are many temperaments that seem to be able to use tobacco all their life long with comparatively little inconvenience—to themselves. I do not mean that every young man who addicts himself to chewing or smoking will of necessity take on other vices, or let this habit run to excess. But we are a nervous people. Everything in the economy of our society tends to develop the brain and the nervous system unduly. Now, as a matter of fact, it is true that among such a people smoking is apt to lead to thirst and drinking. Not always, not necessarily; but frequently and naturally. The cup and the cigar are well acquainted with each other.

The use of tobacco always tends to waste the nerve-force and the brain-force; and in thousands of cases there can be no question but that it squanders life by leakage right from the centre. And you do not know whether you are the one in five that will be poisoned and prematurely destroyed, or not. If there was one single reason for this habit, there might be some excuse for those that indulge in it; but it is nothing which is utterly without any reason whatever. You have to make superhuman exertions in the first instance, to persuade yourself to touch tobacco. It would seem as if God, when he made that weed, said, "I invoke all spirits of nausea and baseness to stand around about and defend it from any touch." For it seems to me that if anything would be secure from human meddling, that would be secure. It is repugnant to every feeling. The whole nature revolts from it. You are not drawn to it by anything that is in you or in it. Not one single element of health does it give you; and the pleasure that is derived from its use is, in the main, illusive pleasure. And such is the effect of it as a poison upon many constitutions, that the struggle of breaking away from it is next only to the struggle of breaking away from the cup. And it has led many and many a youth to the cup. If you have but just begun to smoke, ask yourselves what earthly good it will do you; and if you fail, as you will, to find a good excuse for continuing the habit, leave it off. If you chew and smoke, your misery is double; and if you do but one, do not try to cure yourselves by doing the other, for you will end in doing both. On grounds of simple common sense, I ask every young man in this congregation who is addicted to the unwholesome practice of smoking or chewing, is it worth your while to spend your means, and to entail upon yourselves an unnecessary expense for the sake of keeping up a habit that incommodates others, that annoys those about you, that will probably have a bad influence upon your health, and that will possibly injure your morals? While I would not seem to be extravagant, I cannot fail to give a solemn, and affectionate warning to the young people of my charge on this subject. If you have not learned to use tobacco in any form, I beseech you abstain from it. The young often acquire the habit because they feel that it will be a distinction. No; unfortunately, smoking is so common that it is not a distinction. If you wish to have a distinction, refrain from smoking; that will make you rather remarkable.—H. W. Beecher.

An "idea modeller" writes:—I was teaching in a quiet country village. The second morning of my session I found leisure to note my surroundings, and among the scanty furniture I espied a three-legged stool. "Is that the dunce block?" I said to a little girl of five. The dark eyes sparkled, the curls nodded assent, and the lips rippled out, "I guess so, the teacher always sits on that!" The stool was unoccupied that term.

A woman who always used to attend public worship with great punctuality, and took care always to be in time, was asked how it was she could always come so early. She answered very wisely, "That it was part of her religion not to disturb the religion of others."

Carlyle's description of modern novels is odd enough. He calls them "Tales of adventures which did not occur in God's creation, but only in the waste chambers (to be let unfurnished) of certain human heads, and which are part and parcel only of the Sum of Nothings; which nevertheless, obtain some temporary remembrance, and lodge extensively, at this epoch of the world, in similar still more unfurnished chambers."

SAying AND DOING.—An individual having been to church returned home earlier than usual, and was asked—"Is it all done, already?" "No," he replied, "it is all said, but very little if any, of what was said, has been done yet."

Domestic Economy.

HYMN TO THE FLOWERS.

Your voiceless lips, O flowers! are living preachers. Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book, Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers From lonely nook.

Were I in churchless solitude remaining, Far from all voice of teachers and divines, My soul would find, in flowers of God's ordaining, Priests, sermons, shrines! HONACH SMITH.

WHAT SHALL WE EAT?

Is an important question in these times of high prices. Dr. Hall in a late number of his Journal of Health—good authority, by the way—says the cheapest articles of food at present prices are bread, (especially corn meal,) butter, molasses, beans and rice. He shows that 25 cents worth of flour, at 8 cents per pound, contains as much nourishment as \$2.25 worth of roast beef at 25 cents per pound; and that a pint of white beans, costing 7 cents, has the same amount of nourishment as a 1 1/2 pounds of beef at 25 cents per pound, or in other words, the roast beef diet is twelve times as expensive as the beans. Furthermore, a pound of Indian meal will go as far as a pound of fine flour, costing nearly twice as much. Here are some of the common articles of food, showing the amount of nutriment contained, and the time required for digestion:

Table with 3 columns: Name of food, Time of digestion, and Amount of nutriment. Includes items like Apples, Beans, Beef, Bread, Butter, Cabbage, Cucumbers, Fish, Milk, Mutton, Pork, Poultry, Potatoes, Rice, Sugar, Turnips, and Venison.

According to the above table, cucumbers are of very little value, and apples, cabbages, turnips, and even potatoes, at present prices, are expensive eating. Some vegetables and fruits should, however, enter into the family consumption, even if purchased, for sanitary reasons. Among those which contain the most saccharine matter, sweet potatoes, parsnips, beets and carrots are the most nourishing. Roast pork, besides being an expensive dish, requires too long a drain upon the forces of the stomach to be a healthy article of diet.

BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE OF TEA.

The beneficial results of the introduction of tea and coffee have been strangely overlooked or underrated. It has been, however, well described as leading "to the most wonderful change that has ever taken place in the diet of modern civilized nations—a change highly important both in a moral and physical point of view. These beverages have the admirable advantage of affording stimulus without producing intoxication, or any of its evil consequences. Lovers of tea and coffee are, in fact, rarely drinkers, and hence the use of these beverages has benefited both manners and morals." Raynal observes that the use of tea has contributed more to the sobriety of the Chinese than the severest laws, the most eloquent discourses, or the best treatises on morality. Tea is so little drunk in Germany that it acts like a medicine when taken by a native; and persons decline a cup of good Bohemian with, "No, I thank you, I am quite well at present."

PURIFYING WATER.

It is not so generally known as it ought to be that powdered alum possesses the property of purifying water. A tablespoonful of pulverized alum sprinkled into a hogshead of water (the water stirred at the same time,) will, after a few hours, by precipitating to the bottom the impure particles, so purify it, that it will be found to possess nearly all the freshness and clearness of the finest spring water. A pailful containing four gallons, may be purified by a single teaspoonful of the alum.

A CONSTITUTIONAL FUN.—Daniel Parcell, the famous punster, was desired to make a pun extempore. "Upon what subject?" said Daniel. "The king," answered the other. "Oh! sir," said he, "the king is no subject."

A junior partner in a firm in Boston concluded to raise a substitute, and applied to a stout darkey who was standing on the opposite corner, when he received this reply: "Lawdness you, I've got eight hundred dollars home to buy a white man for myself."

UNFORTUNATE AT COMPLIMENTS.—It is related of a Parisian portrait-painter, that having recently painted the portrait of a lady, a critic who had just dropped in to see what was going on in the studio, exclaimed: "It is very nicely painted; but why did you take such an ugly model?" "It is my mother," calmly replied the artist. "Oh, pardon, a thousand times!" from the critic in the greatest confusion. "You are right; I ought to have perceived it. She resembles you completely."